

Board of Registration in Midwifery
General Session Minutes
Meeting Held by Phone/Video Conference
DATE: March 26, 2025 TIME: 10:00am

A public meeting of the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Optometry (“the Board”) was held via Videoconference and Conference Call pursuant to section 40 of chapter 2 of the acts of 2023, signed into law on March 29, 2023.

Board Members Present by Phone/Video

Rebecca Herman
Susan Hernandez
Zev Colson
Jessica Petrone
Anna Whelan
Nicole Pegher
Kristen Brennan

DPH Staff Present by Phone/Video

Diane Barry, Board Counsel
Thomas Burke, Executive Director
Margaret McKenna, Program Coordinator
Monique Brown, Board Staff
Lisa Park, Board Intern

Board Members Not Present by Phone/Video

None

Call Meeting to Order and Roll Call Vote for Attendance

The executive director welcomed the new board members and the public to the initial meeting of the Board of Registration in Midwifery. Mr. Burke amended the general session agenda to call the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. The director established quorum via calling attendance: Kristin Brennan, Nicole Pegher, Anna Whelan, Jessica Petrone, Zev Colson, Susan Hernandez, Rebecca Herman. All members participated remotely via Webex by Cisco. Mr. Burke welcomed the new board members and invited them to introduce themselves.

Opening Remarks

- Timothy St. Laurent, Bureau of Health Professions Licensure (BHPL) Deputy Director introduced himself and welcomed the new board members to the Bureau of Health Professions Licensure.
- Thomas Burke, Executive Director, introduced himself to the board members and acknowledged the efforts of local leaders who advocated for licensed certified professional midwifery in the Commonwealth. Mr. Burke introduced administrative staff and board counsel.

Administrative Items

- Board Officer Elections
 - Board Chair – **After discussion, Jessica Petrone nominated Rebecca Herman as Board Chair. Nicole Pegher seconded. The motion passed by roll call vote: Kristen Brennan – “yes”; Nicole Pegher – “yes”; Anna Whelan – “yes”; Jessica Petrone – “yes”; Zev Colson – “yes”; Susan Hernandez – “yes”; Rebecca Herman – “yes”.**

- Board Secretary – **After discussion, Rebecca Herman nominated Susan Hernandez as Board Secretary. Kristen Brennan seconded. The motion passed by roll call vote: Kristen Brennan – “yes”; Nicole Pegher – “yes”; Anna Whelan – “yes”; Jessica Petrone – “yes”; Zev Colsen – “yes”; Susan Hernandez – “yes”; Rebecca Herman – “yes”.**

Board Business

- Approve general session agenda for February 26, 2025 – VOTE
Susan Hernandez moved to approve the amended agenda for February 26, 2025. Jessica Petrone seconded. The motion passed by roll call vote: Kristen Brennan – “yes”; Nicole Pegher – “yes”; Anna Whelan – “yes”; Jessica Petrone – “yes”; Zev Colsen – “yes”; Susan Hernandez – “yes”; Rebecca Herman – “yes”.
- Board Member Orientation
 - Board Counsel Presentation
 - Open Meeting Law Summary
 - Conflict of Interest Law Summary

Board Counsel reviewed the Open Meeting Law (OML) that is intended to ensure transparency in public meeting sessions and board deliberations. Counsel also reviewed the Conflict of Interest (COI) law and advised members to address appearances of conflict prior to general or closed session meetings.

- Executive Director & Program Coordinator Presentation
 - Bureau of Health Profession Licensure
 - Role of board members

The executive director reviewed the internal structure of the Bureau of Health Professions Licensure (BHPL), the history of statutory mandates that established licensed healthcare professions in Massachusetts, and the BHPL vision and mission statements and general principles and values. The executive director discussed the roles and responsibilities of the Board in protecting public safety, health and welfare.

- Introduction of Board subject matter experts

The executive director introduced Dr. Cristina Alonso, Director of Pregnancy, Infancy and Early Childhood at the DPH Bureau of Family Health and Nutrition and Margi Coggins of the DPH Bureau of Family Health and Nutrition and thanked them for their expert guidance in preliminary discussions on the practice of certified professional midwifery. Dr. Alonso and Ms. Coggins expressed gratitude for support in establishing the board and acknowledged the years of hard work to establish licensed certified professional midwifery in Massachusetts.

- Discussion: 2025 Meeting Dates

The Board agreed to meet on March 28, 2025 and April 17, 2025. The Board will discuss future calendar dates at a subsequent meeting.

- Review and approve 274 CMR 3.00: Licensed Certified Professional Midwife Licensure Requirements – VOTE

The Board reviewed a draft version of 274 CMR 3.00 that establishes general licensure eligibility requirements. Following discussion, board counsel asked for a motion to incorporate the following changes into the draft regulation of 274 CMR 3.00 and proceed with the administrative review process and public hearing (changes read by board counsel Diane Barry):

In regulation 274 CMR 3.00: Licensed Certified Professional Midwife Licensure Requirements

Section 3.02, subsection 1, added the word LICENSED before certified professional midwife. The section now reads: No person shall represent themselves to be a licensed certified professional midwife unless such person holds a current license issued by the Board pursuant to M.G.L. c. 112, § 293

Section 3.03, subsection (1), subsection (d), adding the phrase OR SUCCESSOR ORGANIZATION at the end of the line, so it now reads: hold a current professional midwife credential from the North American Registry of Midwives (NARM) or successor organization.

Section 3.03, to reorganize subsections subsection (2)(b) 1 and 2. For subsection (2)(b)(1), the text is instead added to the end of (2)(b), and the 1. Removed. For Subsection (2)(b)(2), the section is reorganized to a new subsection (c). The regulation now reads:

(b) a midwifery bridge certificate or its equivalent issued by NARM or a successor credential; provided, however, that the applicant received such bridge certification on or after September 1, 2019 and completed a midwifery education and training program from an educational program or institution that is not accredited by MEAC; or

(c) is licensed as a professional midwife in a state that does not require completion of a midwifery education and training program from an educational program or institution that is accredited by MEAC.

Section 3.06(d), the words OTHER STATE are stricken and the word JURISDICTION inserted. The line now reads: any disciplinary action against an applicant or licensee taken by any licensing authority of any jurisdiction or by NARM.

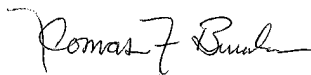
Section 3.06(d), the words STATE OR FEDERAL are stricken and the word IN ANY JURISDICTION inserted. The line now reads: any criminal proceedings in any jurisdiction where the applicant or licensee is named as a defendant.

Rebecca Herman so moved. Zev Colson seconded. The motion passed by roll call vote: Kristen Brennan – “yes”; Nicole Pegher – “yes”; Anna Whelan – “yes”; Jessica Petrone – “yes”; Zev Colson – “yes”; Susan Hernandez – “yes”; Rebecca Herman – “yes”.

Adjournment

At 1:00 p.m., Nicole Pegher moved to adjourn the general session meeting. Kristen Brennan seconded. The motion passed by roll call vote: Kristen Brennan – “yes”; Nicole Pegher – “yes”; Anna Whelan – “yes”; Jessica Petrone – “yes”; Zev Colson – “yes”; Susan Hernandez – “yes”; Rebecca Herman – “yes”.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas Burke, Executive Director

Documents used in the public session meeting:

- Agenda for February 26, 2025 Board meeting
- Conflict of Interest Law Presentation
- Open Meeting Law Presentation
- Board Orientation within the Various Health Boards Unit
- Proposed Meeting Dates for Thursday and Friday Meetings
- CMR Draft 274 CMR 3.00 Licensed Certified Professional Midwives (LCPM) Licensure Requirements